

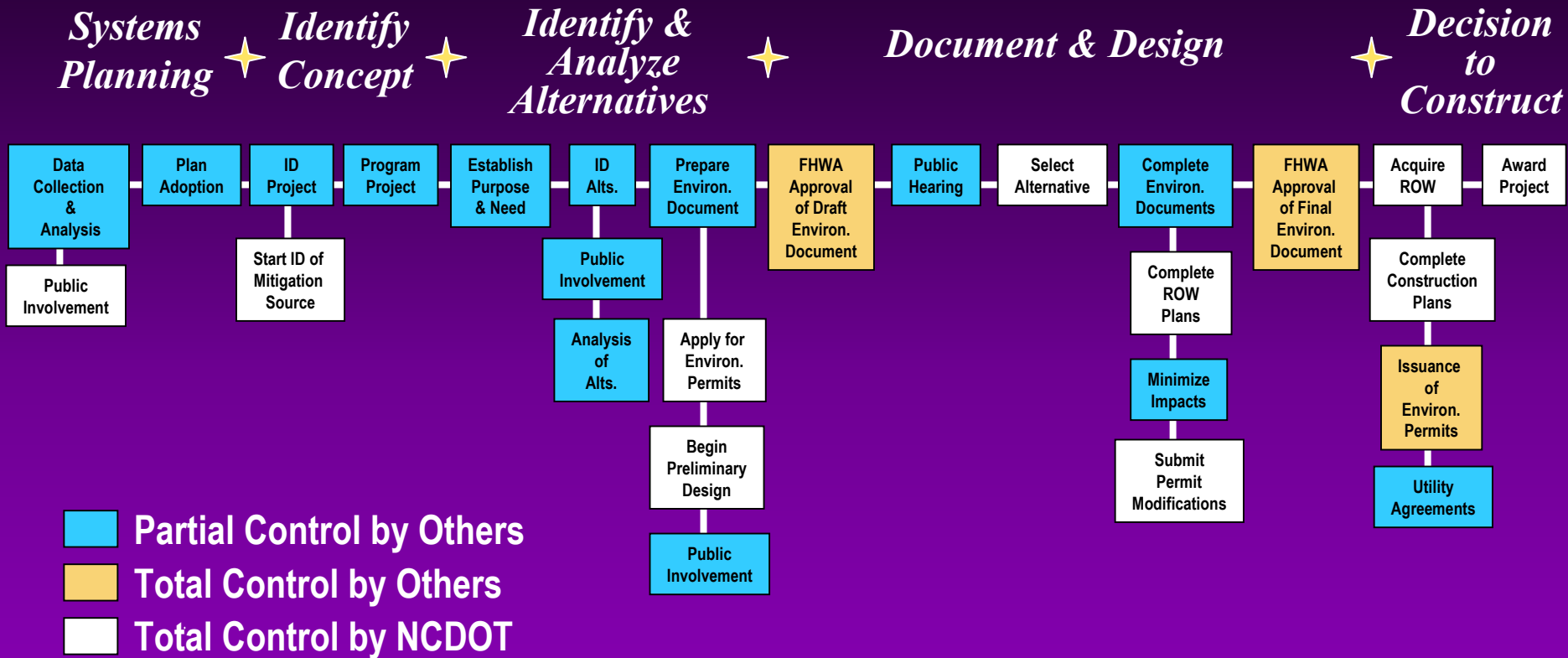
# Addressing Environmental Issues

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# Purpose

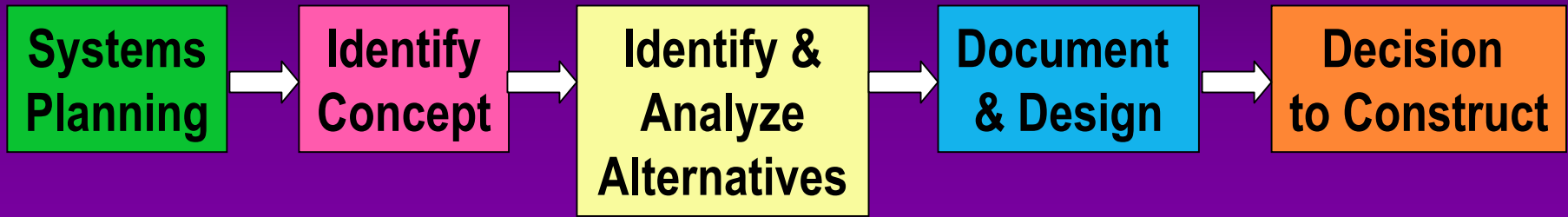
- Educate on the full range of the process
- Identify key environmental issues
- What NCDOT is doing to address environmental issues and facilitate project delivery

# Transportation Decision-Making Process



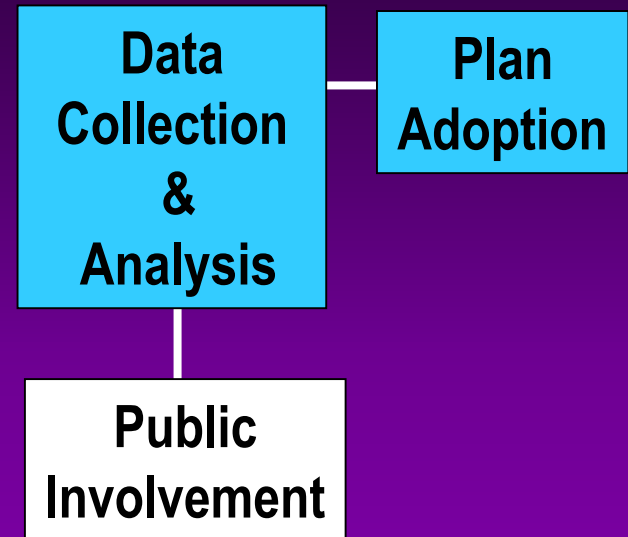
**Goal:** To ensure a transportation improvement meets need in the least environmentally damaging practicable way

# High Level Transportation Decision-Making Process



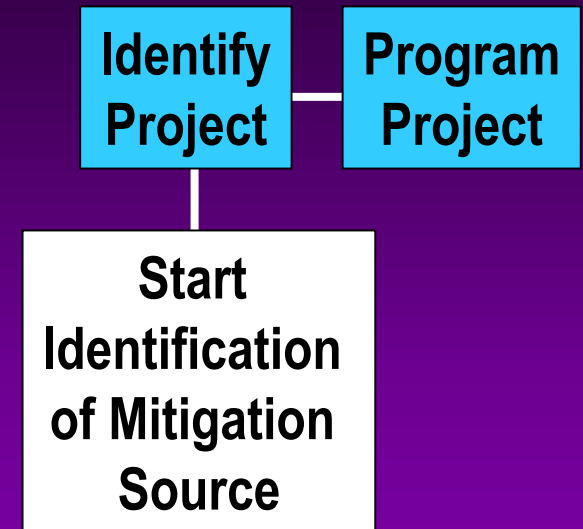
# Systems Planning

- Data Collection & Analysis
  - land use
  - socioeconomic
  - environmental
- Based on local goals
- Decision:
  - Model adoption accepting land use and socioeconomic assumptions
  - Local elected officials (through MPO) adopt plan for future transportation system



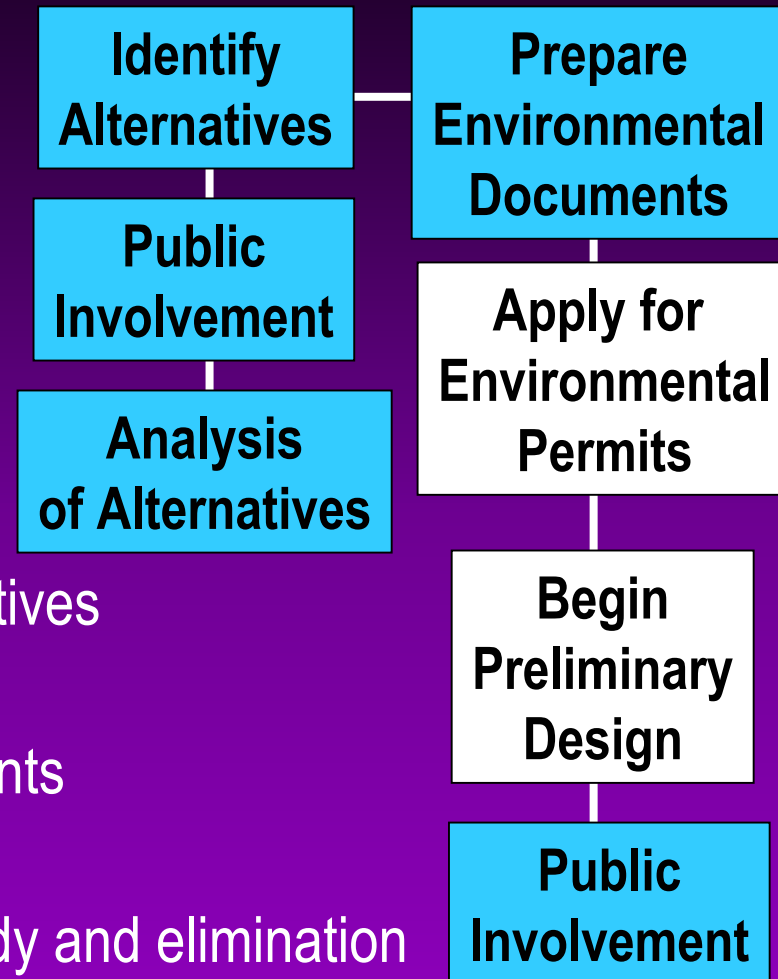
# Identification of Concept

- Environmental screening
- Public input
- Inclusion in TIP
- Decisions
  - Locals and BOT agree that a transportation system deficiency exists
  - Local officials and BOT decide that transportation improvement will be funded



# Identify and Analyze Alternatives

- Purpose and need
  - safety
  - congestion relief
  - access
  - economic development
  - connectivity
- Public involvement
- Identification & assessment of alternatives and disclosure of impacts
- Preparation of environmental documents
- Apply for environmental permits
- Decision: Alternatives for detailed study and elimination of alternatives that are not reasonable and feasible



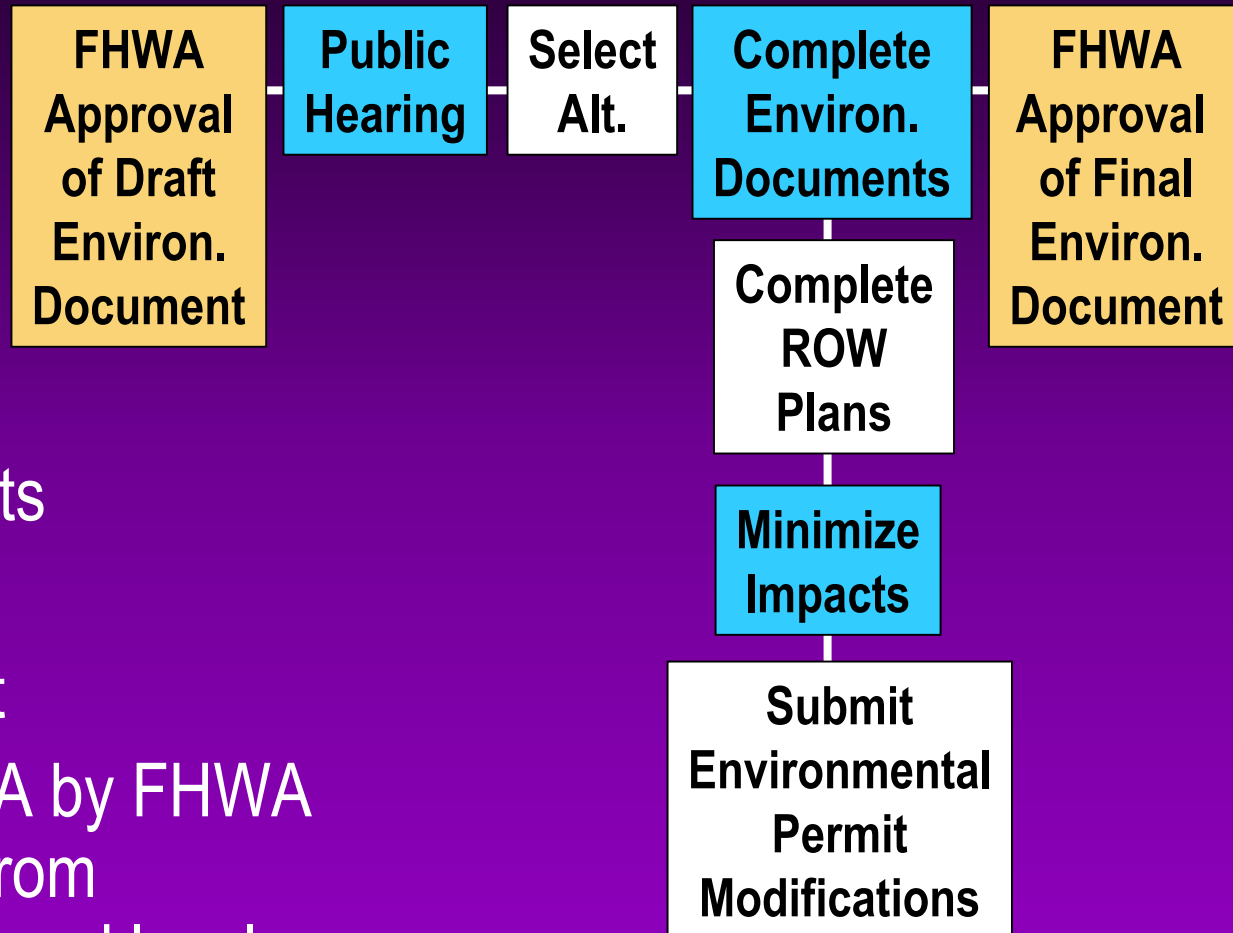
# Assessment of Alternatives and Disclosure of Impacts

- Mapping
- Preliminary design
- Environmental data collection
- Traffic data collection and forecasting
- Transportation and environmental analysis
- Preparation of environmental document



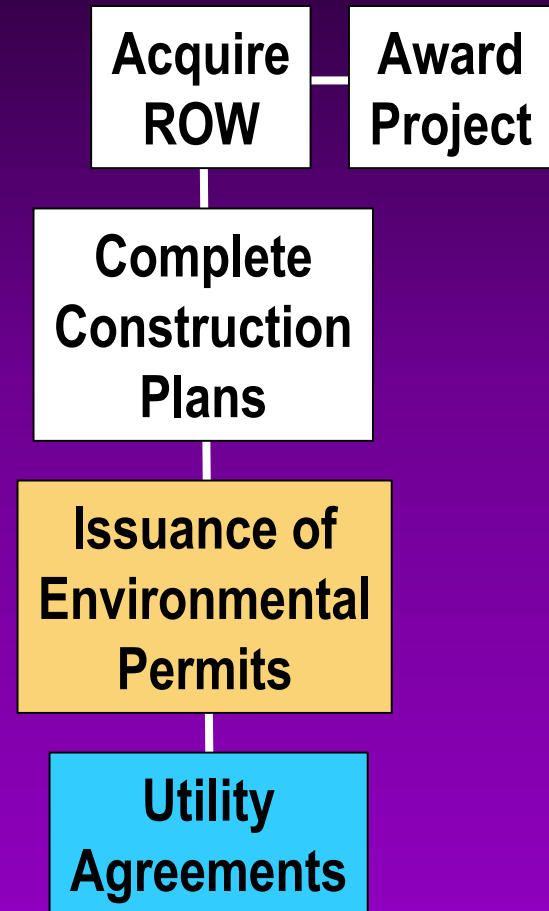
# Document and Design

- Approval of environmental document
- Develop ROW
- Detailed design and specific impacts
- Permitting
- Public involvement
- Decision on LEDPA by FHWA with concurrence from resource agencies and local officials



# Decision to Construct

- Acquire ROW
- Complete construction plans
- Permit decisions
- Award project
- Decision by FHWA and DOT to authorize construction of improvement



# Systems Planning

## Key Issues

- Good data
  - land use
  - socioeconomic
  - environment
- Understanding local needs and community values
- Development of viable, “buildable” transportation plans

## What We’re Doing

- Enhanced GIS
- Increased public involvement
- Avoidance and minimization of high quality resources
- Statewide Long-Range Plan
- “Transportation” plans
- Linkages to land use

# Identification of Concepts

## *Key Issues*

- Purpose and need
- Early identification of environmental issues
  - Local needs and community values
  - natural environment

## *What We're Doing*

- Pre-TIP Process
  - purpose and need
  - environmental issues
  - narrow range of alternatives
- Integrated transportation plan as input to project scoping
- Increased public involvement
- Merger Process
- Early, programmatic mitigation (EEP)
- GIS enhancement

# Identify and Analyze Alternatives

## Key Issues

- Purpose and need
- # of alternatives to study
- ID of resources and assessment of impacts (includes A & M)
  - ICI
  - Protected species
  - Historic resources
  - Community impacts
  - Habitat connectivity
- Competing resource considerations

## What We're Doing

- Involvement of agencies, MPO's and RPO's (Merger Process)
- Increased public involvement
- Elimination of some alternatives
- ICI Guidance and Training
- Predicative Archaeological Modeling
- Community Impact Assessment
- Permit Process Improvement
- Programmatic Agreements

# Document and Design

## Key Issues

- Permit application development and review (internal and external)
- Public involvement
- Decision on LEDPA by FHWA with concurrence from resource agencies and local officials
- Indirect and cumulative impact associated with 401 Certification

## What We're Doing

- Increased public involvement
- Context sensitive design
- Improved permitting process
  - clear permit expectations
  - increased avoidance and minimization
  - early and continuous coordination with agencies
- Indirect and cumulative impact assessment for permitting

# Decision to Construct

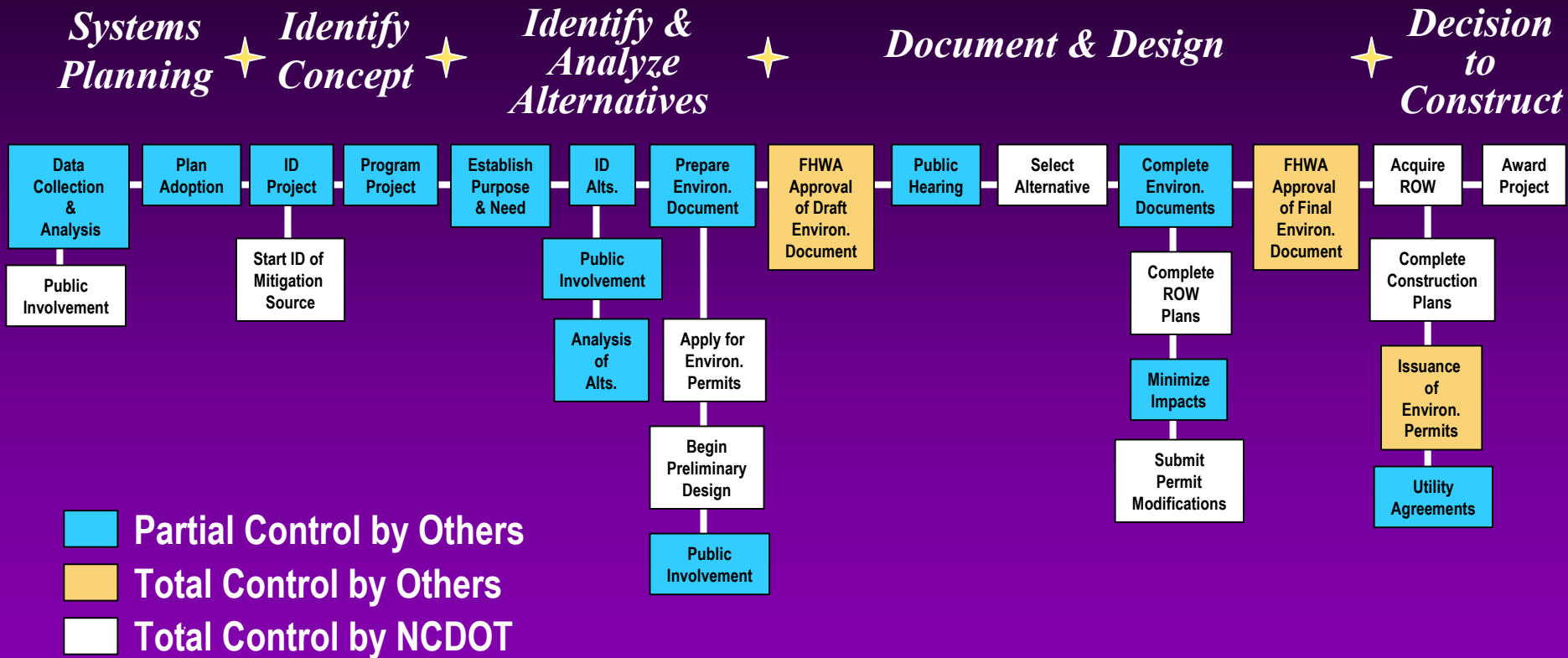
## *Key Issues*

- Late re-work
- Clear expectations about environmental commitments
- Permit decisions

## *What We're Doing*

- Permit Process Improvement
- Earlier utility coordination
- Permit decisions off critical path
- Improvement in process for reviewing, incorporating and communicating environmental commitments
- Project Delivery Meetings

# Transportation Decision-Making Process



**Goal:** To ensure a transportation improvement meets need in the least environmentally damaging practicable way



# Summary

- Process is shared by many stakeholders
- Complex and challenging
- Changes underway and more needed